

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1-35. (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) A method for the identification of ~~an~~ a candidate agent that inhibits redox-reactive metal-mediated crosslinking of A $\beta$ , said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a first A $\beta$  sample and a second A $\beta$  sample;
- (b) adding a redox-reactive metal to said first A $\beta$  sample;
- (c) allowing said first sample to incubate for an amount of time sufficient to allow A $\beta$  crosslinking;
- (d) adding said redox-reactive metal to said second A $\beta$  sample, said second sample additionally comprising a candidate agent;
- (e) allowing said second sample to incubate for the same amount of time as said first sample;
- (f) removing an aliquot from each of said first and second samples; and
- (g) determining presence or absence of crosslinking in said first and second samples, whereby an absence of A $\beta$  crosslinking in said second sample as compared to said first sample indicates that said candidate agent has inhibited A $\beta$  crosslinking.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein at (g), a western

blot analysis is performed to determine the presence or absence of crosslinking in the first and second samples.

38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said first and second samples are a biological fluid.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said biological fluid is cerebrospinal fluid.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said redox-reactive metal is Cu(II) or Fe(III).

42. (currently amended) A method for the identification of ~~an~~ a candidate agent that inhibits redox-reactive metal-mediated crosslinking A $\beta$ , said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a first A $\beta$  sample and a second A $\beta$  sample;
- (b) adding a redox-reactive metal to said first A $\beta$  sample;
- (c) allowing said first sample to incubate for an amount of time sufficient to allow A $\beta$  crosslinking;
- (d) adding said redox-reactive metal to said second A $\beta$  sample, said second sample additionally comprising a candidate agent;

(e) allowing said second sample to incubate for the same amount of time as said first sample;

(f) removing an aliquot from each of said first and second samples; and

(g) determining presence or absence of crosslinking in said first and second samples, whereby an absence of A $\beta$  crosslinking in said second sample as compared to said first sample indicates that said candidate agent has inhibited A $\beta$  crosslinking;

wherein said first and second samples are cerebrospinal fluid and said redox-reactive metal is Cu(II) or Fe(III).